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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1906.

Uncle Sam's Pay Rolls Need Adjustment.

A Berlin dispatch, printed in the Sunday issue of this paper, was of more than passing interest. It stated that the Reichstag had increased the salary of the German Ambassador here $4,000 per annum, because of "the increased cost of living at the American capital." This may be misleading, if it tends to create the impression that it costs more to live in Washington than in other large cities —New York or Chicago or Pittsburg, for instance. If the dispatch had said because of "the increased cost of living in America," it would have been entirely truthful. However, that is a trifling matter in this connection. The Reichstag merely took cognizance of conditions in this country. The salary fixed when the embassy was created in Washington is not an adequate salary to-day. Things have changed, and nobody will dispute the fact.

This moves The Herald to advise that the Reichstag's action should be emulated by the American Congress. There is pressing call for it. A condition has been recognized abroad which the statesmen here at home seem studiously to ignore.

We are not the least concerned about the pay of Congressmen. They are in position to take care of themselves. If they think they are entitled to an increase—and we believe they are—but have not the courage to be placed on record, then let them go without it. The loss is theirs. But there should be some interest manifested at the Capitol in the great army of employes of the government now ill-paid. Their fate is in the hands of Congress. Uncle Sam's rolls are in need of adjustment. The pay of department clerks, as a rule, is wholly inadequate to-day.

Mr. Livingston stated the other day on the floor of the House that a special message is expected from the White House during the present session recommending a general increase of salaries of twenty per cent. We trust he spoke advisedly. Such a message would be most timely. Every toiler in the land—every householder familiar with the increased cost of living—would applaud the President's course. But why should Congress wait to hear from the White House? It is a simple duty that ought to have been done before.

There are decidedly two sides to questions of shorter hours, longer hours, or more holidays; but there is only one side to the proposition to give these employes wages and salaries commensurate with the present cost of living. If salaries now prevailing were fair and equitable when originally fixed, they are obviously inadequate and inequitable under twentieth century conditions. Who can question this?

The German Reichstag has set an example to the American Congress. Let it be followed.

This idea of shooting galleries for schools depends very much upon the schools themselves. Now, if some universities we know of should adopt the idea and use its professors for targets, it might be a good thing.

Child Labor in Washington.

Few subjects call for more careful and thorough discussion and understanding than the question of child-labor in the District. In 1905 a committee was appointed at a citizens' meeting to consider the whole question, and a bill was subsequently drafted, passed the House, has been amended and passed by the Senate, and is now about to go to conference. The proposed law is rather a sweeping one. On its face it seems to be more radical than any child-labor law enacted by any State. Forty-two States now have such laws, most of which impose some sort of educational restrictions on child labor. Seventeen States fix the age limit at which children may be employed at fourteen years. This is the age fixed in the bill proposed for the District of Columbia.

The gentlemen comprising the committee having this legislation in charge are finely representative of the best interests of Washington; citizens who may be implicitly relied on to give any subject they take up earnest and serious consideration. But, as the recent discussion in the Senate plainly showed, there is more than one side to this momentous question. Senator Foraker hit one vital point when he declared that there are undoubtedly employments that children should not be allowed to be engaged in. He would exclude, as do a majority of the States, factories, mines, and workshops. But he quoted those lines which have a bearing on the other side of the question:

> Satan finds some mischief still
> For idle hands to do.

That children should be saved from degradation, whether of employment or of condition, no civilized man will contradict, but there is something in what Senator Piles, of Washington, advances to the effect that "every boy should have the right to fight his way in the world and an opportunity to make a name for himself."

The question is not to be settled by any argument between greed on the one hand and sentiment on the other. Some law on the subject we must have, no doubt, and it should be a model, as everything in the District of Columbia, with its close relation to the national government, should be. But let us all bear in mind that this is not a factory town, and that conditions here are quite distinctive and unusual. Such a law might easily be made too drastic; so radical as to work ill. The conferees should frame a wise, sane, conservative law—the result of mature thought and careful deliberation.

We regret to inform the ladies that there are only a few days left in which to put off their Christmas shopping.

Mr. Shaw and the Money Market.

Secretary Shaw has again come to the relief of the money market by depositing public funds with national banks. His action serves as a fresh reminder of the great influence the Secretary of the Treasury now wields in Wall street. It should also focus attention upon the extraordinary recommendations of Mr. Shaw's annual report, which look to a perpetuation of his methods and to a still further increase of the Secretary's control over the money supply and the rate of interest. As President Roosevelt has expressed his "profound appreciation" of what Mr. Shaw has done, the Secretary's official acts have apparently the cordial indorsement of the Executive.

"Give me $100,000,000 to deposit with the national banks, or withdraw from deposit, as I like," says Secretary Shaw in effect, "and give me power to contract the national bank circulation at pleasure, and I will guarantee to prevent financial panic either in this country or in Europe." No pent-up Wall street confines his powers. He would as soon help out the distressed financiers of London or the continental bourses as those of his own country. We cannot afford to disturb financial conditions in Europe, he says, and to prevent such disturbance he "would not hesitate to make deposits in national banks on condition that the banks in turn promptly deposit an equal amount abroad." "No central or government bank in the world," the Secretary asserts, "can so readily influence financial conditions throughout the world as can the Secretary of the Treasury under the authority with which he is now clothed." No wonder the London financiers regard Mr. Shaw as a financial wizard.

The possession of this immense power does not stagger Mr. Shaw. In fact, he desires its augmentation. He is sure that in his own hands its exercise would be perfectly safe, and he is equally certain that it would not be abused by any of his successors. "I have well-nigh unlimited discretion in quarantining against yellow fever," observes Mr. Shaw, in substance, clinching the argument. "The American people hold me responsible for financial conditions. I ought to have the discretion and authority to fulfill this expectation. Cannot I be trusted as a financier as well as in the capacity of health officer?"

We shall not take issue with this remarkable train of reasoning. It is quite possible that the American people may prefer control of the money markets by a Secretary of the Treasury to control by "powerful interests" in Wall street or elsewhere; it may be, as Mr. Shaw thinks, that great power, centered in a single official, held to strict accountability for his acts, all of which must be performed in the open, will be exercised with a full sense of public responsibility and with an eye single to the interests of the whole body of the people; and it may be, also, that in the present chaotic condition of our financial system no other course was open to the Secretary of the Treasury than to face the heavy responsibility he thought was his and to pursue the course he adopted in response to the urgent solicitations of the banking and business community, a course which in the main produced beneficial results at times of extreme financial tension.

But what shall we say of the failure of Congress to so reform our currency system as to avert the dangers against which the Secretary of the Treasury must stand guard by the exercise of the great power of his office? We hear much from the Capitol of executive encroachment upon legislative prerogative, and of the usurpation of power by the executive branch, but does not Congressional inertia contribute largely to the increment of executive functions? The country cannot stand still. Emergencies arise which must be promptly met. We have an Executive who believes in meeting them promptly and in stretching his authority as far as it will go in providing remedies for economic and financial ills—remedies which Congress has notoriously failed to provide. Where, then, does the fault lie if the Secretary of the Treasury has become a veritable Colossus in the financial world, wielding a power felt in every financial mart of the new world and the old, and carrying with it tremendous possibilities of which Mr. Havemeyer, of the Sugar machinery of national and international credit?

They are an obstinate lot of Texans who cannot see the difference between borrowed tainted money and earned tainted money.

The Parcels Post.

Postmaster General Cortelyou's annual report is a most interesting document from any point of view, and contains many suggestions of importance, though it is not probable that it contains a single item, of large or small degree, that will meet with more general approbation than his suggestions as to the establishment of a limited parcels post.

Secretary Cortelyou recommends that provision be made for the carriage, by rural mail delivery, at a fair rate of postage, of small parcels on rural routes; such privilege to be restricted in each case to the limit of the particular route on which the parcel orginates, or, if found reasonable, to all the routes emanating from a given post-office.

This, which may be intended as the first step toward an amplified and extensive operation of the parcels post, has already attracted a large section of the Southern press, and will undoubtedly be hailed with delight in that section. The same is true of the far West and Middle West. There is no doubt that the rural delivery system has proven to be a great boon to the farmer and inhabitants of sparsely settled sections and districts throughout the land. The countryman keeps in touch with the city markets, for instance, in this day and time in a manner he never dreamed of ten years ago. Not only is that true, but the rural delivery has been the means of establishing close, personal relations between neighboring farmers, and that has greatly helped them in many ways. They are able to keep abreast of the times as never before, and any extension of this service is sure to find great favor in that direction.

In England and other foreign countries the parcels post system has been in vogue for many years. Everywhere it has been tried it has been warmly indorsed and continued. The great barrier between this splendid system and the people of this country seems to be the big express monopolies. If Secretary Cortelyou's recommendations are accepted, the first and most important advance along this most desirable pathway will have been taken, and the extended parcels post will come in time.

And now it seems that Japan is spoiling for a fight with France. It is just barely possible that Japan may keep the thing up until some real nation accommodates her.

Judge Parker, Henry C. Whitney, Bellamy Storer, and the other seven or nine dozen might form a Mutual Admiration Society.

No Commission Needed.

We approve the idea of Mr. Campbell, of Kansas, that tariff revision should be undertaken for economic and not for political reasons, but we cannot commend his proposal that a commission shall be appointed to inquire into the necessity for tariff revision and to gather information relating to the connection between the tariff and monopoly.

If Mr. Campbell will carefully peruse the nineteen volumes of the report of the Industrial Commission appointed by President McKinley, he will find that the ground proposed to be covered by another inquiry was exhaustively gone over by that commission. It is true that the former commission reported that, in the judgment of its members, there was no necessary relation between the tariff and the trusts, but the conclusion arrived at was by no means in conformity to the facts developed by the hearings, at one of which Mr. Havemeyer, of the Sugar Trust, confessed to the dependence of the sugar industry upon tariff legislation.

What assurance has Mr. Campbell that a second inquiry into the same subjects would develop a different conclusion from the same set of facts? We have all the facts now, and have had them for a long time. No need of more commissions to pile up useless documents and futile conclusions. What we want is action, not a superfluous addition to our already overstocked supply of information.

Another Russian mine has blown up a war ship at Vladivostok. This story will be considered a fake, until particulars are forthcoming as to where Russia got the war ship.

A magazine writer says a $2 bill will last sixteen months, and a $10 bill will last three years. That's the trouble with those magazine writers; they will write such transparently false stories.

That Democratic statesman who said he would favor Mr. Bryan for the Presidency, provided Mr. Bryan would adopt a new set of principles, has hedged against the Bryan end of it to a finish.

The Herald inadvertently credited an editorial paragraph to the Hartford Post the other day, when it should have been the Houston Post. As the paragraph has gone the rounds of the press, the Texas paper has the satisfaction of knowing that it was a rattling good one, at all events.

Notwithstanding Chicago's opinion about Adonis' whiskers, we decline to believe that he was the original Populist.

"Burn this letter." Mighty good advice to give, and mighty good advice to take.

A Missourian has succeeded in making Panama rhyme with pajama. Evidently an Indiana poet strayed away from home.

The Nobel peace prize had to slide for it to get in ahead of the Bellamy Storer war.

"Trustees in a church in Bellaire, Ohio, have canceled an engagement for a lecture by Senator Bailey on account of recent occurrences in Chicago," says the Baltimore American. Isn't that rather rubbing it in on Senator Bailey?

"A road without a speed limit is the motorist's dream," says W. K. Vanderbilt, jr. Yes; and it's high time for the motorist to wake up, too.

The contents of the Congressional Record also fall frequently to come up to the pretensions of the label.

John Sharp Williams says "The Democratic party has lassoed the President." Perhaps some one has just "locoed" Mr. Williams.

One or two more messages from the President and Mr. Bryan will probably conclude that his only protection from the political frosts will be removal to a warmer climate.

Mr. Hall Caine, however, is not the first great literary light to question the importance of Shakespeare. Oscar Wilde also held a pretty low estimate of William.

Unless the Senate hastens Mr. Cortelyou's confirmation as Secretary of the Treasury, he may be obliged to move along to the next portfolio without Senatorial consent.

A well-known actress has just married a Pittsburg plumber. She will get into the millionaire set yet.

John D. Rockefeller's income is $114 a minute. It is hard to see how a man could use that sort of an income more than fifteen or twenty minutes and not wake up.

An English astronomer says there are 64,184,757 stars. Mr. Bellamy Storer has probably seen more than that.

Maxim Gorky now says "Americnas are a gloomy, silent race." Maxim ought to see us when we do not know he is around.

"After Abdul Hamid, what?" asks the Cleveland Leader. Guess he thinks it's pretty much everything.

A Western man hit his wife on the head with a club because he didn't like her accent. This idea of reforming the language seems to be going entirely too far.

A Multipartisan President.

From the Providence Journal.

The Populist party of Kansas is dead; even its stalwart adherents admit the fact and have called a conference at Topeka to disband the organization and "join the Republican party." Chairman Hanna says that President Roosevelt is a good enough Populist for him; and as the President has also been characterized as more of a Democrat than the Democratic conservatives, it now remains for the Prohibitionists to fall into line. However, when the polls are opened these persistent enthusiasts will doubtless be found doing business at the old stand.

With a Splendid Record.

From the New York World.

Without spectacular accompaniments Secretary Hitchcock has been instrumental in performing a great service to the whole country, of which the East in particular has taken too little account. He will retire from office with a long record of faithful work thoroughly performed.

Something Wrong.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

"What are you farmers beefin' about?" demanded the Republican statesman. "Ain't you always prosperous under a Republican administration?"

"Yes; but we ain't no more prosperous than the Demmycratic farmers," doggedly replied old Farmer Coboss.

Able and Exhausting.

From the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

The country press continues to describe the President's message as an able and exhausting document.

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

THE FAT AND THE THIN MAN.

"Ah-h-h!" said the fat man, stamping his feet as he stood beside the thin man and waited for the car, "this is something like! This is the genuine old-time Christmas weather. Ah-h-h!"

The thin man shivered and drew his head down into his collar until only his nose and eyes were above it. His nose was a brilliant red and his eyes were watery.

"B-r-r-r!" said the fat man shuffling his feet. "I tell you, this does a man's heart good! Thought we wasn't going to get any real, simon-pure, old-time winter at all! By jinks, this is the stuff!"

The thin man extracted his stiff hands from his pocket and blew on them fretfully. His hands were incased in gloves, but they must have been very cold, indeed, for they shook aimlessly as he blew on them. The effect produced was that of seeing a couple of dried leaves quivering in the gale.

"Woof! Oo-ooh!" puffed the fat man, facing the wind that came howling down the street and romped and ran and tugged at people's coats or dresses, or snatched hats from heads and tossed them into the air and rolled them madly and merrily along. "I tell you, she cuts you to the bone, don't she? That's the caper! Give me a real, genuine, dyed-in-the-wool winter wind, one that slashes you through and through, and freezes the marrow in your bones! That's what I like. Say! Ain't that great?"

A fresh supply of wind arrived just then from the frozenest, coldest, bleakest, barrenest part of the polar regions. It yelled and screamed as it struck the corner, and it whirled and danced and shouted and roared and whizzed through coats, shirts, and skin, and sought out the innermost recesses of the human frame and laid its icy fingers upon them and turned them into cold-storage rooms.

The thin man gasped and wheezed, but the fat man got his breath when the wind stopped to gather more force, and cried gleefully:

"By golly! That's splendid! Ain't it the best ever? The real winter at last! Gimme a sure enough cold wind, with frost on the edges and snow trimmings, and let it blow me wrong side out if it wants to! This is the best weather we've had in twenty years. I'm glad enough over it to stand out and freeze to death, just enjoying it. Say! Ain't it—"

The wind came back the other way at the rate of seventy miles an hour and blew the words down his throat. It yammered and clamored and flung signs around and tore off sections of tin roofs and yanked an awning from its fastenings and ran wildly to the sky with it, yelling with insane joy. The fat man sputtered and puffed and went on:

"Ain't it the real thing? Say! It makes me think of the little old farm. Gee! Those were the days! Those were the real winters and the real Christmases! Get up at 4 in the morning and go out to feed the stock, with the thermometer so far below zero you had to dig the mercury up with a pickax to see how cold it was. And when you went over the hill with a basket of corn to feed the hogs that had burrowed into the strawstack—my! how it cut you in two! You hadn't had any breakfast, and—"

The thin man drew his head down into his collar until it seemed that his hat brim rested on his shirt front, and he shivered and shook, and trembled and almost rattled. The fat man went blithely on:

"—and you were as hollow as a drum, and when you topped the hill the cold wind simply cut you square in two, and you—"

The thin man was jerking his hands from his pocket and raising his head turtlewise from his collar.

"—and you felt the breath in your lungs turning to frost and your skin was like thin ice and your hair seemed to freeze stiff and to be breaking off in icicles, and—Oh! Ouch! Police! What's the matter with you? Has the man gone crazy? Stop that!"

But the thin man had suddenly jabbed him in the face with one frozen fist and had followed that blow with another from the other frozen fist, and then had methodically kicked the fat man on the shins, and hastened up street.

WILBUR NESBIT.

SENATOR BAILEY DEFENDED.

Houston Post Declares His Integrity Has Not Been Challenged.

From the Houston Post.

The three points which must never be forgotten in any discussion of the relations between Senator Bailey and Henry Clay Pierce are: First, that absolutely nothing has happened to impeach Senator Bailey's integrity; second, that these transactions, entirely personal, took place at a time when Pierce stood before the world as a man of recognized probity; third, that since these transactions, Senator Bailey has served almost a full term in the Senate with a record which gives the lie to any suggestion that he has been subjected to influences inimical to the public welfare.

To assume that because a man's personal enemies slander him his influence and usefulness are impaired is utterly unwarrantable.

When such an issue is raised, when a public servant is attacked, the matter of first importance is, not that he has been assailed, but whether he has been truthfully assailed. And in this instance, the influence and usefulness of Senator Bailey do not depend upon the charges which have been made against him, but upon whether the challenge of his integrity can be sustained.

Secretary Shaw's Power.

From the New York Herald.

Mr. Shaw has gone far beyond any of his predecessors in the number and diversity of the expedients he has adopted and in the evasion or loose interpretation of the laws to justify their adoption. Setting aside charges that he has favored certain banks or particular interests, the fact remains that this is too great and dangerous a power to be exercised by any government official. It is a situation fraught with perilous possibilities, and Congress could render no more important service to the country than to immediately pass a bill directing that Treasury funds be kept in the banks. This would remove all necessity and pretext for meddling and muddling and leave the money markets of the country to be regulated by the banking and business community and the automatic operation of trade requirements.

Moscow's Old Drug Store.

From the London Globe.

The greatest drug store in the world will be found in one of the most backward countries of the world. It exists in Moscow and is 203 years old. Its title is the Old Nikolska pharmacy, and since 1833 is has been in the family of the present proprietor. It is a building of imposing dimensions, with many departments, including one of professional education for the staff, which numbers 700 persons. They make up about 2,000 prescriptions a day and so perfect is the organization that an error is seldom recorded.

No Pressure Yet.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The men who dread the imposition of an income tax need not be alarmed by anything the President has to say on the subject. He does not press Congress to enact an income tax law as he did a railroad rate law.

Unsimplified Spelling.

From the Smart Set.

Five girls in a fashionable boarding-school have formed a society to protest earnestly against the new spelling. They sign themselves Alysse, Mayme, Grayce, Kathryne, and Carrye.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Harping on Spelling Reform.

Spelling reform continues to occupy the time of the House to the exclusion of almost everything else. It is an interesting fact of possibly great significance that every statesman at the south end of the Capitol who speaks his mind plainly against Carnegieizing the language is listened to with the most respectful attention, whereas those who support the phoneticists, either are not listened to at all, or are hazed. The Hon. John A. Sullivan, Democrat, of Boston, took a vicious whack at the movement yesterday, and submitted some rather warm remarks on the subject of Executive usurpation. When he sat down he was warmly applauded by the Republicans, and Speaker Cannon had to give admonitory raps to prevent the applause from growing into an ovation. No feature of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill appears to have aroused any interest whatever, except the Carnegie spelling reform inhibition.

It is believed that when the bill gets over to the Senate, that staid and dignified body will go after the spelling reformers even more hot-foot than has been done by the House. Some rare speeches are expected on the subject in the Upper Chamber, and the philologists may look for a good deal of new light to be shed on their fad by such eminent scholars as Senator Foraker, Senator Hale, and Senator Morgan, all of whom, it is said, are preparing to ventilate the subject of spelling reform very thoroughly, while it is believed that Senators Lodge and Beveridge will support the Carnegie innovation. Senator Teller has some original ideas on pronunciation, which he may exploit before the debate closes. For example, the veteran Colorado statesman, who was born in Cuba, N. Y., insists upon pronouncing the name of that town as if the final vowel were "y," instead of "a." He always says "Cuby." When asked one day why he gave the word this pronunciation he somewhat indignantly replied: "I was born and raised in Cuby, New York, and I guess I ought to know how to pronounce it."

Boss of the Missouri Body.

Col. William H. Phelps, of Missouri—they call him "Bill" out in his county when his back is turned—gazed with interest from the galleries yesterday on both sides of lawmakers at the Capitol. For twenty years or more Col. Phelps has been the undisputed boss of the lobby at Jefferson City, and one year a reformer from Kansas City, after vainly endeavoring through nearly the entire session of the legislature to engraft some of his ideas upon the statutes, introduced a resolution to the following effect:

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to ascertain from the Hon. William H. Phelps if he has any more business for the consideration of this legislature.

"Be it further resolved, That if the said Hon. William H. Phelps has nothing more to present for our consideration, that this legislature forthwith adjourn."

Col. Phelps has been conspicuously identified with the Gould interests in Missouri for many years. He does not often come to Washington—not as frequently as do the representatives of corporations at other State capitals—and whenever he does come here, it is strictly on pleasure. He is a supporter of Gov. Joseph W. Folk for the next Democratic Presidential nomination. Col. Phelps has been a member of the Missouri delegation to nearly every Democratic National Convention for a generation.

Cabinet Officers.

Careful search is being made of Senate records from the foundation of the government by various members of that body to ascertain if a Cabinet nomination was ever rejected. Thus far no case of rejection has been found. It is known that frequently tenders of Cabinet portfolios have been made by Presidents and then either declined or withdrawn after it was made manifest that the Senate would not confirm. But these cases are not matters of official record. It has been the rule all along to regard Cabinet positions as appendages of the Executive office, and as such the selections made by the Presidents have been generally confirmed by the Senate, although confirmation has not been unanimous in every instance. It is not unusual for the Senate to hesitate a longer or shorter time before confirming Cabinet appointments, but as a rule this hesitation has been caused by partisan political considerations. In the matter of the appointment of justices of the Supreme Court the case is different. The Senate has rejected numbers of these nominations. Even so great a lawyer as Caleb Cushing was refused confirmation by the Senate after he had been nominated for the Supreme Court by President Grant. Two of President Cleveland's selections for the Supreme Court—W. H. Hornblower and Wheeler H. Peckham—were rejected by the Senate under the inspiration of David Bennett Hill.

Kentucky's New Senator.

A large, muscular looking statesman is Kentucky's new Senator-elect, the Hon. Thomas H. Paynter, who will succeed the Hon. J. C. S. Blackburn next March. Judge Paynter has been in Washington several days, and has been given the privileges of both floors of Congress. He is entitled to the privileges of the floor of the House by virtue of his having served in that branch of the lawmaking body several terms. He is watching closely the proceedings of the Senate, and has already been presented to nearly all the men who wear the toga. He has been a member of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, the highest judicial tribunal in the Bluegrass State, since leaving Congress eight or ten years ago, and he has been deeply impressed with the rapid shifts made by the people in their representatives in Washington, by reason of the fact that so few men now in the House were there when he was a member. He looks more like Secretary Taft than any other national character, though he is a little taller and is not so amplitudinous in the midriff.

Senator Beveridge's Retort.

From the New York World.

Senator Piles, of Washington, said he wanted to introduce an amendment to the child labor bill. He thought the bill was too sweeping.

"Is it not a fact," he asked, "that under the bill as it now stands I would not be permitted to employ my own son in my law office if he were under fourteen years of age?"

"Would you," Senator Beveridge interrupted quickly, "put a son under fourteen years of age at work in your office if you desired to train him to be a lawyer?"

"I went into my father's office," said Senator Piles with dignity, "at the age of thirteen."

"Did it help?" queried the Indiana Senator.

And there wasn't any answer.

Avoiding Trouble.

From the Houston Post.

"Those candidates are telling some terrible lies about one another."

"Yes; but you see it would mean shooting on sight if they were to tell the truth about one another."

Two Presidential Phrases.

From the Boston Herald.

Wonder if "peculiar perfidy" will go into the list of familiar quotations with "pernicious activity?" They both have the White House imprimatur.

THE ROOSEVELT-STORER CASE.

Unpleasant Impression Produced by Publication of the Letters.

From the New York Sun.

The Storer-Roosevelt episode has produced a most unpleasant impression, and one that, in our judgment, will not readily be dissipated. Mr. Roosevelt's intemperate denial is ineffective and leaves all the graver elements in the case unanswered, or at best ignored.

Leaving out altogether the unsavory excursion into Vatican politics for what it might profit in Roman Catholic votes in America, and dismissing all consideration of the taste and wisdom of propitiating simultaneously a powerful ecclesiastic in St. Paul and another in New York, it is pertinent to consider merely the circumstances of the summary removal of the Ambassador to Vienna.

We do not approve of women in diplomacy. We recall many women who have achieved brilliancy in the semi-political salon, but few who have altogether escaped mischief. In the long run their hearts get in the way of their heads, and the best intentions in the world are frustrated by an uncontrollable excess of zeal. This was Mrs. Storer's besetting sin, and no fair-minded scrutiny of the correspondence published can impute to her any graver dereliction. She did exactly what she was desired to do, but she did it too much; and she abated nothing of her activity after this activity was no longer in request—in fact, after it had become inconvenient.

Admitting now the urgency of the President's sentiments, would it not have sufficed him and satisfied the urbanities of official severity if he had asked for his Ambassador's resignation? Why proceed to the extremity of removing both the Ambassador and the Ambassador's wife, and why achieve this result through the medium of such a letter as that which he addressed to Mr. Storer? There are conventions, even decencies, in life that no one, certainly not the President of the United States, can afford to violate.

When Mr. Roosevelt betrays such heat and impetuosity as to spell correctly, which he does in his letter to Secretary Root, it should be a sign to him that he is running past his signals.

From the Springfield Republican.

Without entering upon any consideration whatever of the merits of the controversy between the President and the Storers—for it is impossible now to attempt to apportion the blame between them with nice precision—it may be pointed out that the revelations now made show a surprising activity, also on the part of the McKinley administration in regard to the cardinalate. Of course, Mr. Roosevelt to-day disapproves of such interference by a President of the United States in the affairs of the Vatican, yet he must acknowledge that he bears some responsibility for the efforts which resulted in President McKinley's activity in the administration of the Church of Rome.

From the Boston Transcript.

No one can read this correspondence and the other communications reported, as these have now appeared in three instalments, without realizing that Mr. Roosevelt suffers somewhat from that natural enthusiasm and frankness which makes him so ready to express a vigorous opinion on all the vast range of subjects which come within the scope of his interest. Everything that a President says, or a man who becomes President, draws the bright light. It is liable not only to be quoted, but to be exaggerated. This is in Mr. Roosevelt, a source of weakness, but of the kind that necessarily acompanies the qualities that make him powerful.

From the Providence Journal.

It ought to be added that the President does not emerge from this incident with flying colors. Like the ex-Ambassador, he mixed friendship and diplomacy using personal forms of correspondence when discussing State affairs, and continually approaching the extreme of unconvention in his treatment of the episode. His severe strictures upon the Storers would have more effect were it not for the public's recollection of other incidents in which the Chief Magistrate has not hesitated to charge those who have dared to disagree with him with misrepresentation and falsehood.

From the New York Times.

What the public will feel in this matter is not so much, however, the punishment administered to an unfaithful friend and official as the evidence that the President has from the first taken a course consistent with his position, and one in all essential ways proper. It is plain that after he became even remotely connected with the national administration, he not only ceased to express any interest in the matter of the cardinalship, but he took pains to make it clear to "the Storers" why he ceased to do so, and the principle that must necessarily guide his conduct.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

Storer's pamphet and President Roosevelt's reply to it raise sharp issues of veracity, but these become of minor importance. One does not need to pass judgment as between the two men on these points in order to recognize that Storer and his wife were both meddlesome while abroad in matters outside of his proper province, and that the meddling was so maladroit as to compromise seriously the President, and even to involve our government as such in unpleasant misunderstandings.

From the New York Evening Post.

The whole is a mournful affair. What will the world think of Presidential dignity What idea will be given of our diplomatic service? How much like a world power does all this make us look? The entire wretched quarrel should have been kept under lock and key. If the President has any more of this dirty linen in his basket we hope that Taft can be made to sit on the cover. A democratic people is not too fastidious, but it does want those whom it honors to behave like gentlemen.

From the St. Louis Republic.

Comedy mingles with the deplorable in the incident which President Roosevelt has made the subject of a long explanatory letter to the public through the Secretary of State. That question of personal veracity should come up between the President of the United States and a citizen whom he and a former President had deemed worthy to represent the United States at the courts of great European powers is an unpleasant fact to every good American.

From the Columbia State.

He who differs from the President takes long chances with his reputation for veracity. Who will believe that so-and-so is so When President Theodore says it isn't so? It will be remembered that long ago in our history our Presidents gained the reputation of not being able to tell a lie.

NEEDED.

I guess we need more people who
Are living for the others,
And more who have a notion that
All sorts of men are brothers.

I guess we need more simple hearts,
More courage and right living,
More modest generosity—
Less noisy ways of giving.

I guess we need more cheerful chaps
With dispositions sunny,
But most of all a substitute
To take the place of money.

—Birmingham Age-Herald.

HEARD AT HOTELS.

Mr. E. C. Newsam, who is at the Raleigh, is in charge of the cable company's office at Colon, on the Isthmus of Panama. In conversation with a Herald reporter he said:

"Some of these days the Panama Canal will be finished, but just when that will be, nobody can predict with certainty. A great deal of preliminary work has been done, and money has been spent like water, but very little results have so far been attained. I am sure, however, that American pluck and enterprise will never 'lay down' until the desired consummation is reached. I have lived on the isthmus for eight years. It is not a healthful climate, and there is always more or less malarial fever. It is impossible for men to work down there as effectively as they do in northern latitudes.

"The great question is the labor problem. My belief is that the canal will have to be dug mainly by West Indian workmen. They are not ideal laborers, but they are about all that can be obtained, unless Chinamen are brought in, which seems doubtful."

The fitness of many women to carry on big business undertakings in an able manner is well illustrated in the person of Mrs. Harry Dewar, of Nelson, Ga., who was at the New Willard yesterday. Her husband, the late Harry Dewar, who had many warm friends in Washington and all over the South, was an Ohio man, who had built up a large and flourishing marble business in North Georgia. He died very suddenly in Baltimore last spring, after having made contracts for furnishing the beautiful and unsurpassed white marble of his quarries to several new and costly buildings in Washington and Philadelphia. Mrs. Dewar, who had never made a study of any of the details of the business, but who had learned much of it through association with her husband, at once felt called upon to take his place, and proved herself equal to the emergency.

She was so apt and quick, and so full of executive ability, that the presidency of the company fell to her, and since her administration the business has been largely increased and extended. All of the 400 workmen who labor in her quarries, and who were devoted to her husband because of his philanthropic deeds and considerate treatment of them and their families, have transferred their allegiance to Mrs. Dewar, and she has the unlimited respect and loyalty of every one of them.

Mr. B. W. Ritter and wife, of Durango, Colo., are at the New Willard. Mr. Ritter is one of the leading business men of his section, and an influential Republican.

"It is pleasant," said he, "to get away from the mountains and get closer to the seashore, and for that reason Colorado people have to visit Washington, where one never hears the word 'altitude' mentioned. Out our way altitude is made to do the work of charity—it covers all the sins and shortcomings of the human race. At Silverton, which is about 10,000 feet, a little boy was reproved for his inattention to the words of his Sunday-school teacher. The teacher, in order to rebuke him, said: 'Johnnie, don't you want to learn the teachings of the Bible so you can grow up to be a good man and go to Heaven when you die?'

"'Nope,' answered Johnnie, 'I don't want to go to Heaven; the doctors say Silverton is too high for me.'"

"One of the most widely known men of New England, Col. Alexander Troup, of New Haven, Conn., was at the Arlington yesterday. Col. Troup has for the past thirty-five years been engaged in editing the New Haven Union, a paper of such pronounced Democratic proclivities that it was the only morning daily in the Nutmeg State that supported Bryan in 1896.

"Are you for Col. Bryan for the head of the party in 1908?" queried a Herald reporter of Col. Troup.

"I am now and have always been a strong friend of Bryan, and should he be nominated again will support him as heartily as in his previous races. He was elected President in 1896 beyond the shadow of a doubt, but the Republicans counted him out."

Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, is at the New Willard. Mr. Hamlin was asked as to his views touching the future of the Democratic party.

"I think," said he, "that the old-fashioned principles of Democracy will survive, and I expect to see them once more in the ascendant in the nation. The process of centralization of power in the Federal government at Washington is going on at such a rapid rate as to cause people to wonder where it will stop. But there is a limit, and the country will not tolerate the extreme of Federalism any more than the extreme of the State-rights doctrine. A middle course is the one to be preferred, and we shall see that principle triumph."

Mr. Alexander Cockrell, a prominent business man of the city of Dallas, Tex., is registered at the Metropolitan. Mr. Cockrell says: "I came on a visit to my uncle, ex-Senator Francis M. Cockrell, now of the Interstate Commerce Commission. I find that his health is steadily improving and hope that he will soon entirely recover."

When asked in regard to the political situation in Texas, Mr. Cockrell said: "When I left home the whole State was aflame over the Bailey scandal. The people of Texas have always had a great pride in the ability of Senator Bailey, but her pride is greater still in the good character of Southern Senators and Representatives. Until now our Senators and Representatives have been true to the best traditions of our race. As the late Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, said of the Southern Senators: 'They were men of high character. They had no money sense. They housed in cheap boarding-houses and second-class hotels, but they knew a job when it reared its head, always hit it, and when you met one of them you might be sure that you took by the hand an honest man.' The people of Texas think, in view of recent revelations, that Senator Bailey does not represent Texas ideals or judgments. Besides, they have not failed to note the startling difference between the campaign made by Senator Bailey in September and October, and the one he is waging now. In his first campaign he hurled anathemas against all his opponents, denounced them from the stump as liars, scoundrels, and hyenas, and even used blacker epithets against them. Now, in a mouse-like squeak, he whines out that the people of Texas ought not to persecute or forsake their poor nominee. After the sickening revelations that were made by Attorney General Davidson, the people have forsaken Mr. Bailey by the thousands. In my judgment, he will be overwhelmingly defeated."

Mr. Richard Ryan, of Alaska, who is at the New Willard, is well and favorably known in Washington and many other cities. He came here with Charles Stuart Parnell, as his private secretary, when that great exponent of home rule visited the National Capital, and was given the freedom of the floor of the House.

"The time is at hand," said Mr. Ryan, "when justice demands that Alaska should have a territorial form of government. Our people have a right to self-government, and we should have a legislature to regulate our local matters. A coterie of Federal officeholders are against this, but they are scheming for their private interests, and do not represent the real sentiment of the country."